

I Claim:

1. A debris collection system for use with a portable blower/vac having a fan outlet through which debris is ejected when the blower/vac is operated in a vacuum mode, which comprises:

- (a) a collection bag having a longest dimension;
- (b) a connecting hose releasably coupling the collection bag to the fan outlet of the blower/vac; and
- (c) a wheeled cart for releasably receiving the collection bag and for supporting the collection bag with the longest dimension of the collection bag extending more horizontally than vertically.

2. The debris collection system of claim 1, wherein the cart has front and rear ends that are spaced apart from one another, and wherein the longest dimension of the collection bag fits between the front and rear ends of the cart.

3. The debris collection system of claim 2, wherein the collection bag has a front end and a rear end which lie respectively adjacent the front and rear ends of the cart when the longest dimension of the collection bag is fitted between the front and rear ends of the cart.

4. The debris collection system of claim 3, wherein the cart has laterally spaced, upwardly extending side walls, and wherein the collection bag has a shorter dimension that fits between the side walls of the cart when the longest dimension of the collection bag is fitted between the front and rear ends of the cart.

5. The debris collection system of claim 4, wherein the side walls of the cart lie inboard of the wheels of the cart.

6. The debris collection system of claim 3, wherein the front and rear ends of the collection bag are releasably secured to the front and rear ends of the cart when the collection bag is supported on the cart.

7. The debris collection system of claim 6, wherein the front end of the collection bag is releasably secured to the front end of the cart by an attachment flange on the collection bag releasably received in a slideway on the front end of the cart.

8. The debris collection system of claim 6, wherein the rear end of the collection bag is releasably secured to the rear end of the cart by a strap on the rear end of the collection bag slipped around the rear end of the cart.

9. The debris collection system of claim 1, wherein the cart has a front end with a slot, and wherein the connecting hose when coupled to the collection bag passes through the slot when the collection bag is supported on top of the cart.

10. The debris collection system of claim 9, wherein the connecting hose is free to rotate relative to the slot when the connecting hose is received within the slot.

11. The debris collection system of claim 9, wherein the collection bag has a front end with an inlet, and wherein a rear end of the connecting hose is inserted through the inlet in the front end of the collection bag to couple the connecting hose to the collection bag.

12. The debris collection system of claim 11, wherein the rear end of the connecting hose has an attachment plate and

the front end of the collection bag has an attachment flange around the inlet with the attachment plate and attachment flange abutting with one another when the rear end of the connecting hose is inserted through the inlet in the front end of the collection bag.

13. The debris collection system of claim 12, wherein the abutted attachment plate and attachment flange are received and retained in a slideway on the front end of the cart when the connecting hose passes through the slot.

14. The debris collection system of claim 1, wherein the connecting hose has a front end with a coupler for releasably securing the front end of the connecting hose to the fan outlet of the blower/vac.

15. The debris collection system of claim 14, wherein the coupler includes a plurality of resilient tabs for locking within a plurality of mating receptacles provided on the fan outlet of the blower/vac.

16. The debris collection system of claim 15, further including a universal adapter for securing the coupler to the fan outlet of a blower/vac which is not equipped with the mating receptacles, the universal adapter having a front end with a compressible sleeve for receiving and sealing around the fan outlet of the blower/vac which is not equipped with the mating receptacles, the universal adapter further having a rear end provided with the mating receptacles such that the resilient tabs on the coupler can be inserted into the mating receptacles on the universal adapter when the sleeve on the universal adapter is inserted around and compressed on the fan outlet of the blower/vac which is not equipped with the mating receptacles.

17. The debris collection system of claim 16, further including a strap on the front end of the universal adapter for compressing the sleeve on the fan outlet of the blower/vac which is not equipped with the mating receptacles.

18. The debris collection system of claim 1, wherein the collection bag is a reusable collection bag made of a relatively permanent fabric material, the collection bag being configured to allow air to pass out of the collection bag as the collection bag collects debris.

19. The debris collection system of claim 1, wherein the collection bag is a disposable collection bag made of paper, the collection bag being configured to allow air to pass out of the collection bag as the collection bag collects debris.

20. The debris collection system of claim 19, wherein the disposable paper collection bag includes a generally circular inlet surrounded by a relatively planar and deformable attachment flange, and further including a generally circular outlet carried on the cart having a rim with at least one rib for releasably receiving the attachment flange on the disposable paper collection bag by allowing the attachment flange to be deformed and slipped past the rib(s) on the rim of the outlet to be retained by the rib(s) on the rim of the outlet when the inlet of the disposable paper collection bag is slipped around the outlet.

21. The debris collection system of claim 20, wherein the outlet for mounting the disposable paper collection bag is part of an accessory that is releasably mounted on the cart.

22. The debris collection system of claim 21, wherein the outlet is formed by a rear end of a spout that is releasably

carried on the cart, the spout having a front end into which one end of the connecting hose is releasably inserted.

23. The debris collection system of claim 22, wherein the rear end of the spout forming the outlet faces downwardly.

24. The debris collection system of claim 1, wherein the collection bag is made of a flexible material to allow the collection bag to collapse and expand.

25. The debris collection system of claim 24, wherein a zippered opening is provided in the collection bag to allow the zippered opening to be unzipped to empty the collection bag of collected debris.

26. The debris collection system of claim 1, wherein the longest dimension of the collection bag extends substantially more horizontally than vertically when the collection bag is received on the cart.

27. A debris collection system for use with a portable blower/vac having a fan outlet through which debris is ejected when the blower/vac is operated in a vacuum mode, which comprises:

- (a) a collection bag;
- (b) a connecting hose releasably coupling the collection bag to the fan outlet of the blower/vac; and
- (c) a wheeled cart for releasably receiving the collection bag and for supporting the collection bag for movement over the ground, the cart having a longest dimension that is generally horizontal relative to the ground.

28. The debris collection system of claim 273, wherein the collection bag has a longest dimension that overlies the longest dimension of the cart such that the longest dimen-

sion of the collection bag is also generally horizontal relative to the ground.

29. A debris collection system for use with a portable blower/vac having a fan outlet through which debris is ejected when the blower/vac is operated in a vacuum mode, which comprises:

- (a) a wheeled cart;
- (b) a collection bag releasably carried on the cart;
- (c) a connecting hose releasably coupling the collection bag to the fan outlet of the blower/vac to fill the collection bag with debris picked up by the blower/vac when the blower/vac operates in the vacuum mode; and
- (d) wherein the cart is configured to roll on the ground and trail behind the blower/vac in the manner of a canister vacuum cleaner as a user operates the blower/vac and walks forwardly with the blower/vac.

30. A debris collection system for use with a portable blower/vac having a fan outlet through which debris is ejected when the blower/vac is operated in a vacuum mode, which comprises:

- (a) a collection bag;
- (b) a connecting hose releasably coupling the collection bag to the fan outlet of the blower/vac;
- (c) a wheeled cart for releasably receiving the collection bag and for supporting the collection bag for movement over the ground; and
- (d) wherein the connecting hose is coupled to the cart at a location that allows the cart to be pulled by the connecting hose and to roll and trail behind the blower/vac as a user operates the blower/vac and walks forwardly with the blower/vac.

31. The debris collection system of claim 30, wherein the connecting hose is coupled to a one end of the cart.

32. The debris collection system of claim 30, wherein the connecting hose is releasably received in a slideway on the cart to releasably couple the connecting hose to the cart.

33. The debris collection system of claim 32, wherein the connecting hose is free to rotate relative to the slideway when the connecting hose is releasably received in the slideway.

34. The debris collection system of claim 32, wherein the connecting hose passes through a slot on the cart when the connecting hose is releasably received in the slideway.

35. The debris collection system of claim 34, wherein the slot is a vertical slot on one end of the cart.

36. A debris collection system for use with a portable blower/vac, which comprises:

- (a) a reusable collection bag made of a relatively permanent fabric material, the reusable collection bag being configured to allow air to pass out of the collection bag as the collection bag collects debris;

- (b) a connecting hose releasably coupling the reusable collection bag to the blower/vac;

- (c) a wheeled cart for releasably receiving the reusable collection bag and for supporting the reusable collection bag; and

- (d) a disposable collection bag made of paper, the disposable collection bag being configured to allow air to pass out of the disposable collection bag as the collection bag collects debris, the disposable collection bag being se-

lectively used on the cart in place of the reusable collection bag.

37. The debris collection system of claim 36, further including an accessory that can be releasably installed on the cart, one end of the accessory being releasably coupled to the connecting hose and another end of the accessory providing an outlet to which the disposable collection bag can be releasably coupled.